

16th Annual Invasive Species Workshop

Invasive Weed Control on Annette Island, 2015

Winter, Genelle

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Included here is a summary of work conducted this season, some of our successes and goals for the future.

Invasive Weed Control on Annette Island 2015

Invasive Species control and monitoring on Annette Islands Reserve in
Southeast Alaska, 2015 season

Abstract,

We consider public outreach to be one of our greatest tools in invasive weed control, in addition to planning multiple community outreach events, we make a concerted effort to hire youth as our team members in control work, thus 'infecting' them with the passion to continue in being stewards of their island, make Early Detection and Rapid Response common phrases, as well as Reporting and Taking Action to known and new invaders.

Included here is a summary of work conducted this season, some of our successes, lessons learned and goals for the future.



So most of you know where Metlakatla is, but just for those of you who don't, Metlakatla is the southernmost community in the State of Alaska, connected to Ketchikan by ferry, float plane and private boat.

Our current population remains stable at 1500 and the main economy revolves around fishing and local government business.





Preservation of our traditional culture and subsistence lifestyle is important and heavily influences the management decisions we make in controlling invasive species on Annette Island.





Based on the high intrinsic, traditional value placed on the subsistence crops of berries and the importance of fishing, we focus on manual control of invasive species, avoiding the use herbicides whenever possible.

For this to be effective the best approach is one of comprehensive public outreach and public participation in the prevention and control of our target species as well as new invaders.

Target Species

Species	Latin names	AKEPIC Ranking	Impacted Acres
Bull Thistle	<i>cirsium vulgare</i>	61	110
Canada Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	76- Class A prohibited in AK	99
Sow Thistle- <i>sonchus arvensis</i>	<i>Sonchus arvensis/olerceu</i>	73	25
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica/polygonum cuspidatum</i>	87	.10
Himalayan Knotweed	<i>Persicaria wallichii/polygonum polystachyum</i>	80	25
Tansy Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	63	2
Orange Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	79	4.5
Reed Canary Grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	83	15
White Sweetclover	<i>Melilotus alba</i>	81	1

Successful Outreach

This summer we had several successful outreach stories, one in particular that we would like to share is from an older gentleman who, we feel was the source location for the tansy ragwort on the island.

We saw that he had several 100 plants in his front yard and from talking to him last year, I knew that he was interested in removing them. During Brian Maupin's visit, we stopped at his house to ask if we could pull them for him.

He was excited to have us help him.





The grand total from this amazing outreach activity was over 1000 individual plants.

We recorded over 115 rosettes and the crew went back over the next month, once a week and was able to pull another 200+ plants that showed up after the initial large pull.

This exciting opportunity was possible due to outreach done at the local health fair over the last several years and the work we do in the community just talking about invasive species.

Weed Control at highway speed.

Any good weed geek can spot a target species at 50 miles an hour. If left unchecked it could turn into something more like this...



Youth Activities

As part of the outreach and education we had the kids do something new this year, they cut Reed Canary Grass seed heads and bagged them.

The rain made this is an especially soggy activity but it resulted in the youth having a 'new' weed to learn about and to participate in some control measure.



Upon going back later in the day, they had collected and bagged 12 bags of seed heads from the participation of 20 youth in the group. They were excited to have the chance to do this work and to say now they know about a Reed Canary Grass, not just Himalayan Knotweed and the Thistles.



In addition to the RCG work, we had the other groups work on the Himalayan Knotweed in the usual sites, beside the Senior Center and on Church Street. The result was over 300 40lb bags of HK.



To those who have seen us work on this site over the years, you may be able to identify the Thimbleberry that is making a gradual recurrence on this site.

We hope that with continued effort the native berry bushes will completely reclaim the site.



Goals For The Future

- 1- to find a permanent funding mechanism to allow us to have a robust prevention and control program
- 2- to keep the community informed and excited about being partners in the prevention and control of invasive species on Annette Island
- 3- to fund and operate the vehicle rinse and reclaim system from May to September annually
- 4- to see true collaboration between our southeast communities that focus on prevention and control options.

Thank you

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